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ception of the unpaired chromosome, which passes to one pole of the spindle.

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CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY AND CLIMATOLOGY

CHANGES OF CLIMATE?

IN his recent volume (Vol. II.) on "Ancient Khotan," Dr. M. A. Stein, whose explorations in Chinese Turkestan are well known, points out that it requires constant and persistent effort to keep up the irrigation of the oases in that region. The wind-blown sand and the shifting courses of the silt-laden, snow-fed rivers are always tending to change the course and scope of the irrigation systems. If man relaxes his efforts in the least, the sand and the aridity of the desert replace the fertility of the formerly irrigated oasis. This has happened in many cases within human experience. A swing of the climatic pendulum in this region, towards a drier period, is not thought improbable, but the ordinary physiographic forces at work there are held sufficient to explain the changes of population and of settlements which have been clearly made out.

Again, in the Lake Chad district of Africa, Lieutenant Secker, in northern Nigeria, has lately reported that he found that the natives, by erecting fish-dams on the river Yo, are diverting water which would otherwise flow into the lake. These dams collect large masses of weeds, and lead to the formation of marshland. Lieutenant Secker is of the opinion that this may have something to do with the reported drying-up of Lake Chad.

FOG DENSITIES

The Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society for October, 1907, contains a suggestion by J. A. Lovibond, "On a Method and Apparatus for Measuring Fog Densities." The method is based on the power of selective absorption of suitably colored glass. When this has been graded into mechanical scales of equivalent color value, a beam of white light can be progressively ab-

sorbed to extinction, and the luminous value of each successive absorption stated in quantitative terms. This analytical power also applies to the color constituents of the beam.

RAIN GAUGES

The Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society for October, 1907, also contains a paper, by Dr. H. R. Mill, on "The Best Form of Rain Gauge, with Notes on Other Forms." Dr. Mill strongly recommends the "Snowdon pattern," which is 5 inches in diameter; has a vertical rim to the funnel of 4 inches, and has an inner can and also a bottle.

NOTE

The Annuaire Météorologique of the Royal Observatory of Belgium for 1907 contains a discussion, by A. Lancaster, entitled "L'Humidité de l'Air en Belgique," and an account of balloon ascents in Belgium by J. Vincent.

R. DEC. WARD

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THE IOWA LABORATORIES OF ANIMAL BIOLOGY

At the University of Iowa, new laboratories of animal biology have just been put into service under the directorship of Professor Gilbert L. Houser. These laboratories are located in a new and beautiful fire-proof building of thoroughly modern construction—the hall of natural science, erected by the state at an expense of three hundred thousand dollars. With the standard of their new quarters, the laboratories are entirely in keeping, so it is evident that the opening of these laboratories marks an epoch in the scientific facilities of Iowa.

The space devoted to animal biology comprises eleven rooms located in the north wing of the building on the second, the first, and the basement floors. This space is so unified, however, by a small elevator running through the rooms as to make the arrangement much more convenient than if all the space were on one floor.

The laboratories proper occupy the whole of the second floor of the north wing, the large